MARVEL
009
GILLEN
WALKER
DEERING
FABELA
STAR WARS™
DOCTOR APHRA

Part I

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those operating on the fringes, there is potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Chelli Aphra briefly teamed up with Luke Skywalker and his friends to reactivate the Rur Crystal, an artifact with the consciousness of an ancient Jedi. But when that endeavor led to them escaping only due to Luke's affinity with the force, they decide it's best to go their separate ways.

Now, still in possession of the newly-reactivated Rur crystal, it's time to get back to what Aphra does best: Get rich or die trying....

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Isolate-4 Lab, The Outer Rim.

GGGRRRRRRHH?

YES, I AM SURE ABOUT THIS.

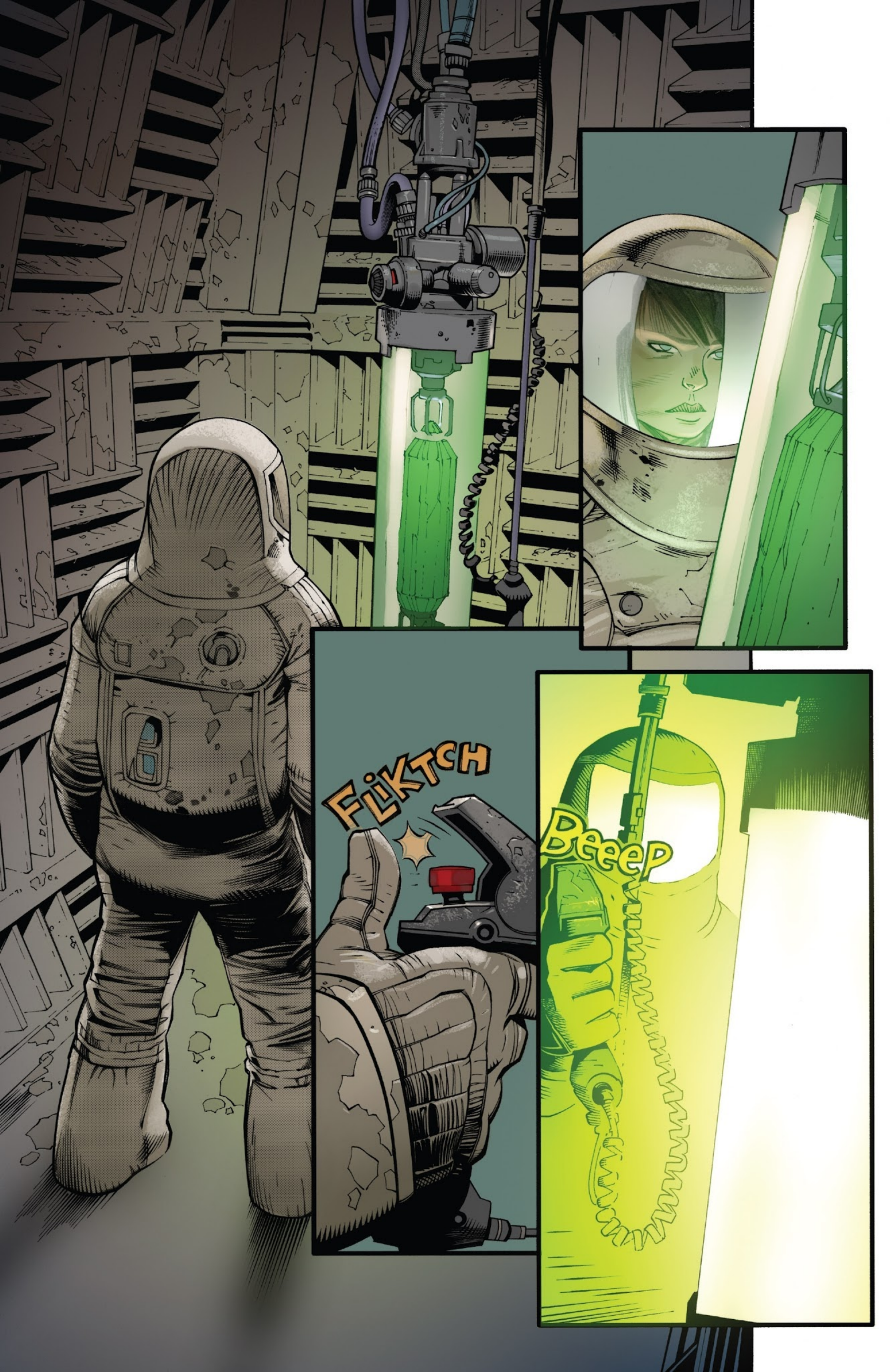
IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, LIGHT THE FUSE AND TAKE COVER.

HOW QUAINT, MASTER APHRA.

DON'T MOCK, TRIPLE-ZERO. THIS IS FOR YOUR PROTECTION.

IT HAS TO BE CHEMICALS ONLY. NO ELECTRONICS.

KLLK HSST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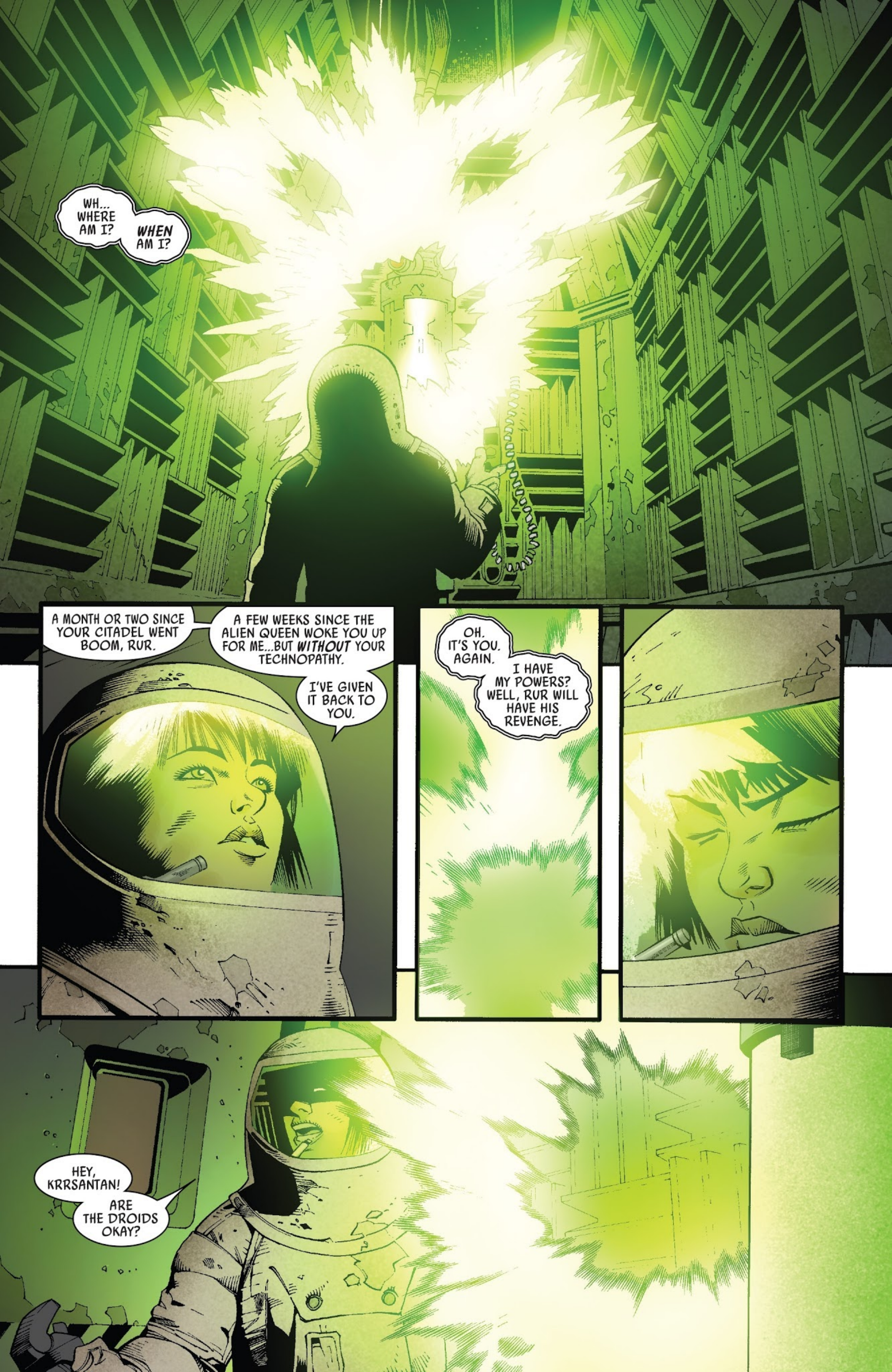
BEEEP


WH... WHERE AM I?
WHEN AM I?
A MONTH OR TWO SINCE YOUR CITADEL WENT BOOM, RUR.
A FEW WEEKS SINCE THE ALIEN QUEEN WOKE YOU UP FOR ME...BUT WITHOUT YOUR TECHNOPATHY.
I'VE GIVEN IT BACK TO YOU.
OH. IT'S YOU. AGAIN.
I HAVE MY POWERS? WELL, RUR WILL HAVE HIS REVENGE.
HEY, KRRSANTAN!
ARE THE DROIDS OKAY?

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STAR WARS

DOCTOR APHRA

AND THE ENORMOUS PROFIT

The Sorca Retreat, Weeks Later...
WELCOME ABOARD, MR. YONAK. SO GLAD TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIDE HERE.
SORRY TO HEAR OF THE LOSS OF YOUR DOMINION OF SON-TUUL.

AND DON'T WORRY. WE WOULDN'T INSULT YOU BY INSISTING ON TAKING YOUR WEAPONS FOR SAFEKEEPING.
BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE ONLY WAY YOU'D GET ANY OF MY BLADES IS STRAIGHT THROUGH YOUR HEAD.
ACCURATELY, IF BRUSQUELY, PUT, SIR.
THE PRESENTATION FROM THE DOCTOR WILL START SHORTLY.
WHY THE PSEUDONYMS? HELL, WHY ALL OF THIS GLITZ AT ALL?
FIRST TIME I MET HER I WAS BUYING A DROID, IN AN ALLEYWAY, KNEE-DEEP IN AFT-WASTE.
WELL, MR. YONAK, THIS IS AN EVENT OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE...

...SHE WANTED THIS EVENING TO HAVE, IF YOU WILL, A LITTLE GLAMOUR.
MINGLE AND ENJOY YOUR DRINKS, SIR.
THE DOCTOR WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.

THAT'S THE LAST OF THE GUESTS, MASTER.

YEAH, I CAN SEE. AND A FINE SELECTION OF THE GRANDEES OF GRAND LARCENY.

I MEAN, LOOK AT THIS GUEST LIST...

"THE CYBAN FRONT IS HERE. IF THEY'RE STILL WORKING WITH THE GOTRA, IT MEANS I MUST BE BACK IN THEIR GOOD DATABANKS...

"AND THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY WERE NEVER GOING TO HOLD A GRUDGE WHEN THERE WERE ANCIENT ARTIFACTS ON THE LINE.

"THE EZARAA ARE NO SURPRISE, OF COURSE. IF YOU PROMISED THEM A NEW BLASTER, THEY'LL BE THERE...

"...BUT IT TAKES SOMETHING SPECIAL TO GET THOMAS TOOV OUT OF HIS STASIS DOME.

"AND WITH PAPA TOREN, THE QUESTION HAS TO BE WHO HE'S REPRESENTING. *HMM...*"

THERE HASN'T BEEN THIS MANY WANTED PERSONAGES IN THE SAME ROOM SINCE JABBA'S FIRST WEDDING...

SO, LET'S GET THE GLITZ ON...

"...BEFORE SOMEONE STAINS THE FURNISHINGS."

<I WOULD NOT THINK THE PRIDE HAS ENOUGH CAPITAL LEFT TO PLAY IN THIS COMPANY...?>*

I'M *NOT* SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE, SUTHA.

DOING JABBA'S ODD JOBS IS ALL YOU'VE *EVER* DONE.

*TRANSLATED FROM HUTTESE.

<I *HAVE* BEEN BUSY.>

<YOUR FATHER'S BONES ARE NOW A FINE ORNAMENT FOR THE GREAT JABBA.>

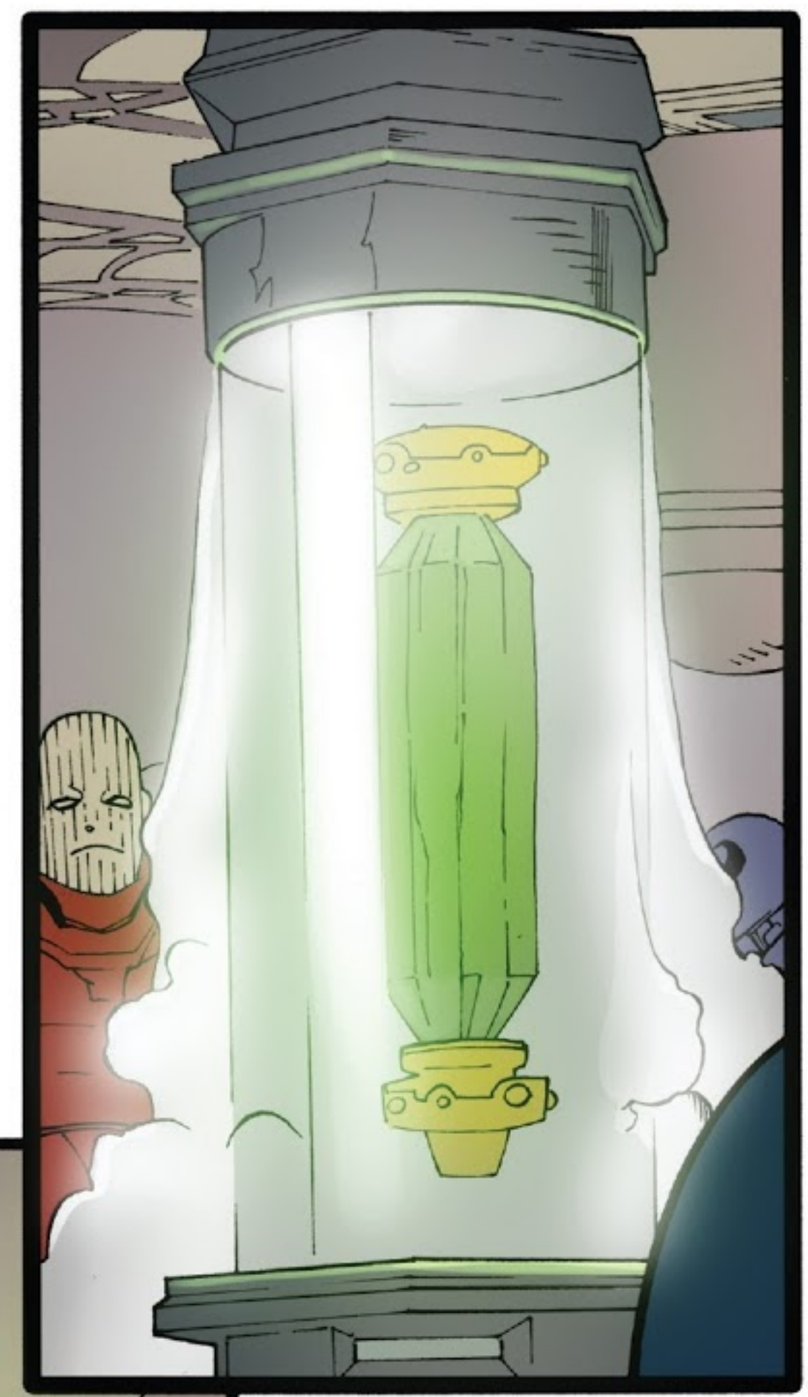
YOU KNOW, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I DON'T LIKE ABOUT SLITTING OPEN A HUTT...

A TARGET THAT BIG IS JUST WAY TOO EASY.

HEY, YONAK. TAKE IT DOWN A GEAR.

AND SAY WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT SUTHA...

...AT LEAST HE'S WEARING HIS SHINIES.
WE DID SAY THERE WAS A DRESS CODE.



SAY HELLO TO RUR.

AND RUR...SAY HELLO.

IMMORTAL RUR!

WHATEVER.

NOW, I'M SURE SOME OF YOU ARE ONLY HERE AS YOU CAN'T RESIST ANY PARTY INVITATION, AND HAVEN'T READ THE TECH SPECS I SENT OVER, SO LET'S RECAP THE BASICS...
IN SHORT, THIS IS A FUNCTIONING A.I. COPY OF A LONG-DEAD JEDI KNIGHT.

MOST OBVIOUSLY--IT'S OF USE AS A MODEL FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE FINDING THIS WHOLE "MORTALITY" THING DESPERATELY ANNOYING.
THERE'S OBVIOUS BUGS, BUT THIS IS STRONG, ROBUST TECH THAT DATES FROM WELL BEYOND THE START OF THE REPUBLIC. THERE'S NOTHING WORSE FOR YOUR PITCH AT ETERNITY TO BURN OUT AFTER A FEW THOUSANDS YEARS, RIGHT?

THIS IS ALSO A VERY SPECIFIC INTELLIGENCE. IT'S A JEDI. AN ANCIENT JEDI. IT KNOWS STUFF THAT EVERYONE'S LONG FORGOTTEN.
THIS IS PRICELESS DATA. WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE HE KNOWS? IT IS A HUGELY IMPORTANT FIND.

AS A WEAPON PROJECT, IT'S A TECHNOPATH.
BLEEP!
NO, BEETEE. YOU'RE A PSYCHOPATH.

IF UNLEASHED, IT CAN CONTROL ANY TECHNOLOGICAL BODY IN THE AREA. THE MILITARY USES ARE EASY TO COMPREHEND.
BEST OF ALL, I'VE WORKED OUT HOW TO CONTROL IT. THE BESPOKE TECHNOLOGY THAT'S PREVENTING RUR FROM MURDERING US ALL IS ALSO INCLUDED WITH YOUR BIDS!

AM I NOT GENEROUS?
STATEMENT: TECHNOPATHY IS IMPOSSIBLE.

COUNTER: TECHNOPATHY IS POSSIBLE.
OUR CIRCUITS ARE SEALED SYSTEMS!
STATEMENT: PROOF IS REQUIRED, DOCTOR.
OKAY. ARE YOU WILLING TO PUT YOUR NECK ON THE LINE?
STATEMENT: YES.
AXIOM: TECHNOPATHY IS IMPOSSIBLE.
OKAY. OPENING UP A NARROWCAST CHANNEL IN 3, 2, 1...
RIP
IMMORTAL RUR!
BDOW

FACT: TECHNOPATHY IS POSSIBLE.

OKAY, LET'S SAY WE'RE IMPRESSED.
WHAT'S TO PREVENT ANY OF US JUST...YOU KNOW... TAKING IT?

I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT RESPECT FOR BLACK KRRSANTAN, BUT HE'S ONLY ONE HARD-ASS.
WELL, YOU'RE FINE AND UPSTANDING CITIZENS OF THE COMMUNITY!
THINK OF THE DAMAGE TO YOUR REPUTATION.

I KNOW YOU.
GIVE US THE "AND."

KLiK

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ALL THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW COMPLETELY SURE I AM OF MY CONTROL SYSTEM WORKING.
BIP
OKAY, EVERYONE. CHILL, CHAT, TRY NOT TO MURDER ONE ANOTHER, AND WORK OUT EXACTLY HOW MUCH YOU'RE WILLING TO PAY FOR THIS...
...I'LL SPEAK TO YOU ALL INDIVIDUALLY LATER.
THAT SEEMED TO GO WELL.
YES, IT DID.
DON'T JINX IT, THOUGH.
SO, MASTER APHRA...

...IS THERE ANYONE WHO NEEDS MURDERING?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME, GUYS.
NO, MASTER APHRA. IT IS NEVER THE TIME.
OUR RECENT ADVENTURES HAVE LEANED TOWARD THE CEREBRAL RATHER THAN THE DRAINING OF CEREBRAL FLUID.
TRIP! HOW MUCH MORE BRAIN FLUID DO YOU NEED?
YOU SAWED OFF THE TOP OF KRRSANTAN'S HEAD!
AND THAT WAS QUITE SOME TIME AGO. YOU TAKE THE POINT.
ALL THIS HANGING AROUND, EXPERIMENTING AND--UGH--MAKING THINGS SAFE...
...I HAVE TO SAY, I AM GETTING A LITTLE...BORED.

OKAY. I PROMISE YOU. AFTER ALL THIS IS OVER, WE'LL SORT SOMETHING OUT. HEY, MAYBE EVEN THOSE UPGRADES WE WERE TALKING ABOUT.
BUT UNTIL THEN, NO MURDER AT ALL.
ACTUALLY... ONLY ON EXPRESS ORDERS.
UNDERSTOOD. I WILL NOT MURDER ANYONE UNLESS MY MASTER EXPLICITLY TELLS ME.
YOU GOT IT.
♪ LOOPHOLE, LOOPHOLE, LOOOOOPHOLE! ♪

HELLO, CODE BETA-FOUR-V-SEVEN FORTY-NINER. SORRY THE CODE'S A LITTLE OUT OF DATE.

CAN YOU PATCH US THROUGH, PLEASE? YES, WE'RE QUITE AWARE OF THE RISKS...

BLEEP!

YES, BEETEE. I AGREE.

THIS IS SELF-DEFENSE.

MASTER APHRA FORGETS THAT I AM A MILITARY-GRADE DIPLOMACY DROID.

I'M QUITE AWARE WHEN SHE'S LYING.

I AM 89.43% SURE THAT SHE PLANS TO DEACTIVATE US WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER.

AND THAT IS SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE.

AH! MASTER! IT IS SUCH A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

YOU HAVE DISTURBED ME, DROIDS.

I HOPE THIS WARRANTS MY ATTENTION.

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